

Review of the multilayer coating model

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Abstract

The recent theoretical study on the multilayer-coating model published in Applied Physics Letters [1] is reviewed. Magnetic-field attenuation behavior in a multilayer coating model is different from a semi-infinite superconductor and a superconducting thin film. This difference causes that of the vortex-penetration field at which the Bean-Livingston surface barrier disappears. A material with smaller penetration depth, such as a pure Nb, is preferable as the substrate for pushing up the vortex-penetration field of the superconductor layer. The field limit of the whole structure of the multilayer coating model is limited not only by the vortex-penetration field of the superconductor layer, but also by that of the substrate. Appropriate thicknesses of layers can be extracted from contour plots of the field limit of the multilayer coating model given in Ref. [1].

INTRODUCTION

The multilayer coating is one of approaches for pushing up the field limit of superconducting (SC) accelerating cavity [4], which consists of alternating layers of SC layers (S) and insulator layers (I) formed on a bulk-SC substrate. A theoretical understanding on this topic showed progresses last year [1, 2, 3]. The magnetic-field distribution in multilayer SC was derived by solving the Maxwell and the London equations with correct boundary conditions [1, 2]; forces acting on a vortex and resultant vortex-penetration field, at which the Bean-Livingston surface barrier disappears, were evaluated based on the correct magnetic-field distribution [1, 3]; and then appropriate choices of layer thicknesses and materials to enhance the field limit were revealed [1]. The above results were then reproduced by an other group [5].

In this paper, we review Ref. [1]. Especially the Bean-Livingston surface barrier is explained in detail by comparing those of a semi-infinite SC, an SC thin film, and an S layer of the multilayer SC. Based on the above, some remarks for planning experiments, such as choices of layer thicknesses and a material combination are described. The surface resistance of the multilayer SC is also commented.

SURFACE BARRIER

Magnetic Field Distributions

By solving the Maxwell and the London equations with appropriate boundary conditions, a magnetic-field distribution in a system can be derived. Figure 1 shows magnetic-

field distributions under the surface magnetic-field $\mathbf{B}_0 = (0, 0, B_0)$ for a semi-infinite SC, an SC thin-film and a multilayer SC. Their analytical expressions are given by

$$B_{[\text{Fig.1(a)}]} = B_0 e^{-\frac{x}{\lambda_1}}, \quad (1)$$

$$B_{[\text{Fig.1(b)}]} = B_0 \frac{\cosh(\frac{x}{\lambda_1} - \frac{d_S}{2\lambda_1})}{\cosh \frac{d_S}{2\lambda_1}}, \quad (2)$$

$$B_{[\text{Fig.1(c)}]}^{(S)} = B_0 \frac{\cosh \frac{d_S - x}{\lambda_1} + (\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} + \frac{d_I}{\lambda_1}) \sinh \frac{d_S - x}{\lambda_1}}{\cosh \frac{d_S}{\lambda_1} + (\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} + \frac{d_I}{\lambda_1}) \sinh \frac{d_S}{\lambda_1}}. \quad (3)$$

Note that Eq. (3) represents the magnetic field in the S layer ($0 \leq x \leq d_S$). Fields in other regions ($x > d_S$) are found in Ref. [1, 2]. As shown in Fig.1(a)-(c) and Eq. (1)-(3), a behavior of magnetic-field attenuation depends on a system, which is essential for understanding difference of surface barrier among different systems.

Surface Barriers

Suppose there exist a vortex with the flux quantum $\phi_0 = 2.07 \times 10^{-15} \text{Wb}$ parallel to $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$ at a surface of SC. This vortex feels two distinct forces \mathbf{f}_I and \mathbf{f}_M , where \mathbf{f}_I is a force from an image current due to an image antivortex, and \mathbf{f}_M is that from a Meissner current due to an applied magnetic-field. The force \mathbf{f}_I is common in all configurations of Fig. 1 if $\xi_1 \ll d_S$. The derivation is reviewed in detail in Ref. [3], in which \mathbf{f}_I is given by

$$\mathbf{f}_I = -\frac{\phi_0^2}{4\pi\mu_0\lambda_1^2\xi_1}\hat{\mathbf{x}},$$

where $\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{H/m}$ is the magnetic permeability of vacuum. Thus the image antivortex attracts the vortex to the surface and prevents the vortex penetration. The other force, \mathbf{f}_M , is obtained by evaluating the product $\mathbf{f}_M = \mathbf{J}_M \times \phi_0 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$, where $\mathbf{J}_M = (0, -\mu_0^{-1} dB/dx, 0)$ is a Meissner-current density at the vortex position $x \simeq 0$. By using Eq. (1), (2) and (3), we find

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{f}_{M[\text{Fig.1(a)}]} &= \frac{B_0\phi_0}{\mu_0\lambda_1}\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \\ \mathbf{f}_{M[\text{Fig.1(b)}]} &= \frac{B_0\phi_0}{\mu_0\lambda_1} \tanh \frac{d}{2\lambda_1} \hat{\mathbf{x}} \simeq \frac{B_0\phi_0}{\mu_0\lambda_1} \frac{d_S}{2\lambda_1} \hat{\mathbf{x}}, \\ \mathbf{f}_{M[\text{Fig.1(c)}]}^{(S)} &= \frac{B_0\phi_0}{\mu_0\lambda_1} \frac{\lambda_1 \sinh \frac{d_S - x}{\lambda_1} + (\lambda_2 + d_I) \cosh \frac{d_S - x}{\lambda_1}}{\lambda_1 \cosh \frac{d_S}{\lambda_1} + (\lambda_2 + d_I) \sinh \frac{d_S}{\lambda_1}} \hat{\mathbf{x}} \end{aligned}$$

by which the vortex is attracted to the inside of each SC. The total force acting on the vortex is given by $\mathbf{f}_{\text{tot}} =$

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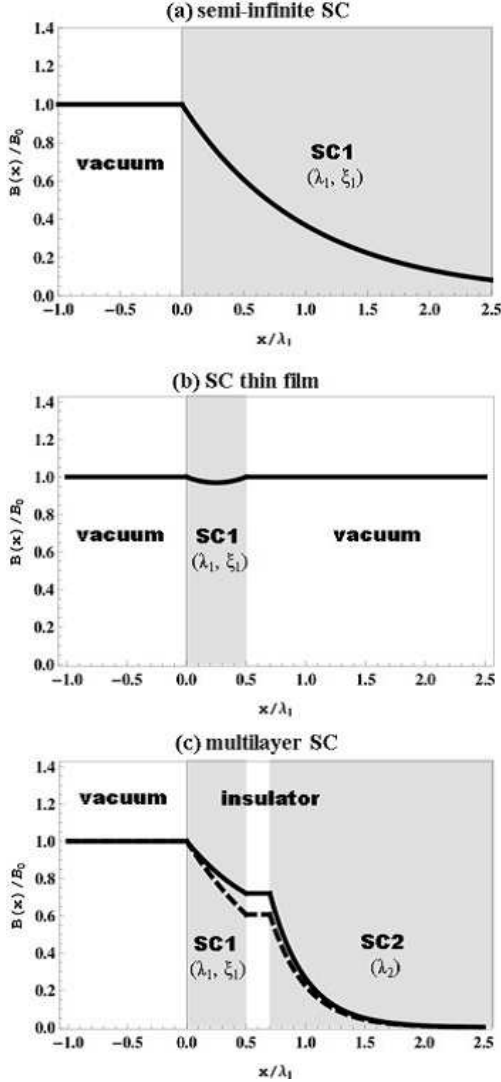


Figure 1: Magnetic-fields in three different systems: (a) semi-infinite SC, (b) SC thin film, and (c) multilayer SC that consists of a single S layer and a single I layer. The surfaces of materials are assumed to be flat and parallel to the y - z plane. SC1 is an extreme type II SC material with a penetration depth λ_1 and a coherence length ξ_1 ($\xi_1 \ll \lambda_1$) and SC2 is an arbitrary SC material with a penetration depth λ_2 . A thickness of the SC thin film and that of the S layer of the multilayer SC are assumed to be d , $d_S \gg \xi_1$ and that of the I layer is assumed to be $d_I > \text{a few nm}$. Black curves represent magnetic-field distributions. A dotted curve in (c) represents an exponential decay for comparison with the correct curve.

$\mathbf{f}_I + \mathbf{f}_M$. When B_0 is so small that $|\mathbf{f}_M| < |\mathbf{f}_I|$, the force \mathbf{f}_{tot} directs the negative direction of the x -axis, which acts as a barrier that prevents the vortex penetration (Bean-Livingston surface barrier). When B_0 is so large that $|\mathbf{f}_M| > |\mathbf{f}_I|$, the barrier disappears and the vortex is drawn into SC. Then B_v , the surface magnetic-field where the Bean-Livingston barrier disappears, can be obtained by

balancing the two forces:

$$B_v [\text{Fig.1(a)}] = \frac{\phi_0}{4\pi\lambda_1\xi_1} \left(\equiv B_{v0} \right), \quad (4)$$

$$B_v [\text{Fig.1(b)}] = \frac{\phi_0}{2\pi d_S \xi_1} = \frac{2\lambda_1}{d_S} B_{v0}, \quad (5)$$

$$B_v^{(S)} [\text{Fig.1(c)}] = \frac{\cosh \frac{d_S}{\lambda_1} + (\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} + \frac{d_I}{\lambda_1}) \sinh \frac{d_S}{\lambda_1}}{\sinh \frac{d_S}{\lambda_1} + (\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} + \frac{d_I}{\lambda_1}) \cosh \frac{d_S}{\lambda_1}} B_{v0} \equiv B_v^{(S)}. \quad (6)$$

Eq. (4) is the well-known result for the semi-infinite SC [6, 7], Eq. (5) corresponds to the result shown in Ref. [8], and Eq. (6) is the vortex-penetration field of the top S layer of the multilayer SC [1, 3].

Differences among Eq. (4), (5) and (6) are due to those of slopes of magnetic-field attenuation at the surfaces, because the force pushing a vortex into SC is given by $|\mathbf{f}_M| \propto |\mathbf{J}_M| \propto |dB/dx|$. A smaller $|dB/dx|_{x=0}$ induces a larger B_v . In fact $|dB/dx|_{x=0}$ of the SC thin film is smaller than that of the semi-infinite SC as shown in Fig. 1(a) and (b), and Eq. (5) is larger than Eq. (4) by a factor $2\lambda_1/d_S$. Similarly, when $|dB/dx|_{x=0}$ of the S layer of multilayer SC is smaller than that of the semi-infinite SC, Eq.(6) can be larger than Eq. (4).

TOWARD EXPERIMENTS

Surface Barrier of the S Layer

Figure 2 shows enhancement factor $B_v^{(S)}/B_{v0}$ as functions of d_S/λ_1 . A combination of small d_S/λ_1 and d_I/λ_1 yields a large enhancement. Substituting $d_S/\lambda_1 \ll 1$ and $d_I/\lambda_1 \ll 1$ into Eq. (6), we find

$$B_v^{(S)} \Big|_{\frac{d_S}{\lambda_1}, \frac{d_I}{\lambda_1} \ll 1} \simeq \left(\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2} \right) B_{v0}. \quad (7)$$

Eq. (7) tells the importance of a choice of bulk-SC substrate¹: a material with smaller λ_2 , such as a pure Nb with a long mean free path, should be chosen for an enhancement of $B_v^{(S)}$.

Field Limit of Multilayer SC

The field limit of the whole structure of the multilayer SC, $B_v^{(\text{ML})}$, is limited not only by $B_v^{(S)}$, but also by that of the bulk-SC substrate, $B_v^{(\text{bulk})}$, because the magnetic-field is not completely shielded by the S layer alone and that on the interface of the bulk-SC substrate B_i is finite. B_i is given by $B_i = \alpha B_0$, where $\alpha = [\cosh \frac{d_S}{\lambda_1} + (\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} + \frac{d_I}{\lambda_1}) \sinh \frac{d_S}{\lambda_1}]^{-1}$. If B_i is larger than $B_v^{(\text{bulk})}$, the bulk-SC substrate can also suffer a vortex penetration. Thus $B_v^{(\text{ML})}$ is given by

$$B_v^{(\text{ML})} = \begin{cases} B_v^{(S)} & (\alpha B_v^{(S)} < B_v^{(\text{bulk})}) \\ \alpha^{-1} B_v^{(\text{bulk})} & (\alpha B_v^{(S)} \geq B_v^{(\text{bulk})}). \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

¹Note that Eq. (7) ceases to be valid at $d_S \sim \xi_1$ and $d_I \sim \text{a few nm}$, at which the model should be reevaluated by more accurate theories.

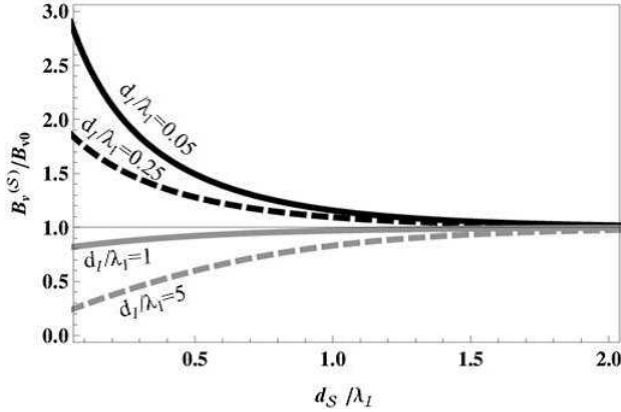


Figure 2: Enhancement factors $B_v^{(S)}/B_{v0}$ as functions of d_S/λ_I , where a penetration depth of the bulk-SC substrate is assumed to be $\lambda_2 = 0.2\lambda_1$.

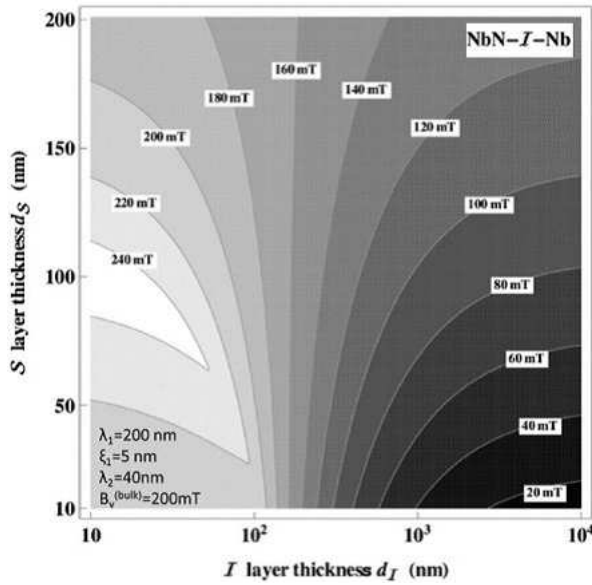


Figure 3: An example of contour plots of $B_v^{(ML)}$ [1]. Material parameters are assumed to be $\lambda_1 = 200$ nm and $\xi_1 = 5$ nm for NbN layer. The bulk-SC substrate is assumed to be Nb with $\lambda_2 = 40$ nm and $B_v^{(bulk)} = 200$ mT.

Fig. 3 shows examples contour plots of $B_v^{(ML)}$ given in Ref. [1], from which an appropriate combination of \mathcal{S} and \mathcal{I} layer thicknesses can be found.

Surface Resistance

Not only the field-limit, but also the quality factor is expected to be improved by the multilayer coating, because parts of currents flow in an \mathcal{S} layer material with a small dissipation. This effect modifies the surface resistance formula, but its derivation is not trivial. The formula given in Ref. [4] is based on the assumption of exponential decay of the magnetic field, which is not necessarily a good approximation and should be reevaluated by using the correct

field-distribution and formalism given in Ref. [1, 2]. The derived formula and detailed discussions will be presented elsewhere [9].

SUMMARY

In this paper, we have reviewed the multilayer coating model [1, 2, 3].

- Magnetic-field attenuation behavior in a multilayer SC is different from a semi-infinite SC and an SC thin film. This difference causes a difference of the vortex-penetration field at which the Bean-Livingston surface barrier disappears.
- A material with smaller penetration depth is preferable as the bulk-SC substrate for pushing up the vortex-penetration field of the \mathcal{S} layer, $B_v^{(S)}$.
- The field limit of the whole structure of the multilayer SC, $B_v^{(ML)}$, is limited not only by $B_v^{(S)}$, but also by that of the bulk-SC substrate, $B_v^{(bulk)}$. Appropriate thicknesses of \mathcal{S} and \mathcal{I} layers can be extracted from contour plots of $B_v^{(ML)}$ given in Ref. [1].

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